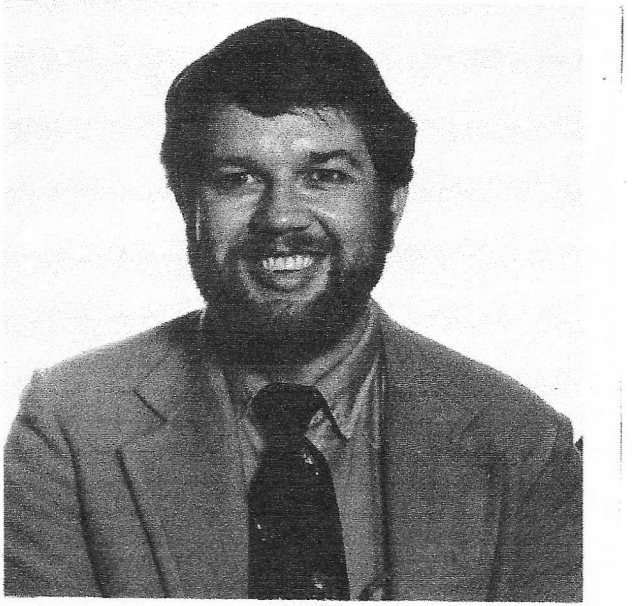

C.J. Riley — MMR #97

C.J. (Jeff) Riley, 40 years old, of Pittsburgh, Pa., began the hobby with an American Flyer Hudson in 1948 in Toronto, Ont., where he was born. A family move to San Carlos, Calif., in 1952 required a switch to HO and a 4 x 8 garage layout. A teenage interest in Model A Fords cut short the hobby, which was not taken up again until 1972, with thoughts of a small Christmas tree layout that would be put away the rest of the year. While the tree was gone in January, the layout stayed in the living room until July and the hobby was reborn.

Since that time, the "Beaver Forks & Muddgut Railroad and Coal Co." has evolved into the Kanawha & Western Allegheny, a small Class I coal hauler and bridge route in the Alleghenies. As an architect, it is somewhat logical to have a major interest in structures, and the layout is well populated with prize winners from regional and national contests. Additionally, a string of scratch-built M-O-W equipment is developing, also all winners. Painting and weathering steam locomotives, scenery and prototypical operating schemes are other major interests.

Jeff has served the NMRA as division superintendent and assistant super, the MCR as chairman of the nominating committee and as judge at division, regional and national photo and model contests. He is supported in the hobby by wife Denise and looks forward to the day when one-year-old son Kegan wants to go railfanning.

Achievement Awards have been earned for Structures, Cars, Scenery, Author, Volunteer, Civil Engineer, and Electrical Engineer.

"The NMRA Contest and Achievement Programs are important factors in the constantly rising level of realism in the hobby," Jeff has said. "The challenges and goals that are inherent in these programs help to concentrate and channel model building efforts while providing the motivation to try new techniques or particular models that might not otherwise be done. I fully support the Achievement Program and look forward to helping other members on the road to this satisfying goal."